

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PLAB, SHUM, SF, US, ILO
SUBJECT: SOUTH AFRICANS TO ATTEND ILO CONFERENCE

REF: JOHANNESBURG 1254

1. SUMMARY: IN AN ATTEMPT TO NEUTRALIZE INTERNATIONAL
TRADE UNION OPPOSITION, SOUTH AFRICA WILL ONCE AGAIN
SEND A GROUP OF TRADE UNIONISTS AND EMPLOYERS TO
LOBBY AT THE ILO MEETING IN GENEVA NEXT MONTH. END
SUMMARY.

2. UNDETERRED BY HIS EXPULSION FROM THE PUBLIC
GALLERY DURING LAST YEAR'S INTERNATIONAL LABOR
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ORGANIZATION CONFERENCE, ARTHUR GROBBELAAR, GENERAL
SECRETARY OF THE TRADE UNION COUNCIL OF SOUTH AFRICA,
IS PLANNING TO JOURNEY TO GENEVA AGAIN NEXT MONTH.
HE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY TUCSA PRESIDENT RONNIE WEBB
(COLORED), DEPUTY VICE PRESIDENT LUCY MVUBELO (BLACK),
EXECUTIVE MEMBER LOUIS PETERSEN (WHITE) AND WALLIE
GROBLER FROM THE ALL-WHITE FEDERAL CONSULTATIVE

COUNCIL OF RAILWAY STAFF ASSOCIATIONS. GROBBELAAR AND WEBB WILL PROCEED FROM GENEVA TO THE UNITED STATES WHERE THEY WILL ATTEND A CONFERENCE IN TEXAS ORGANIZED BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN FOREIGN TRADE ASSOCIATION.

3. THIS WILL BE MVUBELO'S FIFTH TRIP TO THE ILO CONFERENCE AND THE FIRST SINCE HER ABORTED ATTEMPTS TO SPEAK FOR SOUTH AFRICA'S BLACK WORKERS IN 1973 AND 1974. SHE IS THE GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE LARGEST (MORE THAN 20,000 MEMBERS) BLACK UNION, THE NATIONAL UNION OF CLOTHING WORKERS. HER DECISION TO RE-AFFILIATE WITH TUCSA IN 1976 WAS NOT WELCOMED BY MOST OF THE OTHER BLACK UNIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA WHICH CONTINUE TO MISTRUST TUCSA'S PREDOMINANTLY WHITE LEADERSHIP.

4. FIVE EMPLOYER REPRESENTATIVES LED BY CHRIS DUTOIT, WHO IS CHAIRMAN OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN EMPLOYER'S CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AFFAIRS (SACCOLA) ALSO PLAN TO ATTEND THE ILO MEETING.

5. COMMENT: THE TRADE UNION AND EMPLOYER GROUPS WILL BE IN GENEVA AS PART OF THE CAMPAIGN DIRECTED BY SAG LABOR ADVISOR NIC WIEHAHN (JOHANNESBURG 1254), TO CONVINCE INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE GROUPS THAT SOUTH AFRICA IS MOVING AWAY FROM DISCRIMINATION IN THE WORK LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PLACE. SACCOLA, FOR EXAMPLE, SPONSORED THE URBAN FOUNDATION CODE OF FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICE WHICH HAS BEEN SUBSCRIBED BY 90 PERCENT OF ORGANIZED COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY. IN ADDITION TO THE FACT THAT TUCSA NOW HAS A COLORED PRESIDENT AND BLACK DEPUTY VICE PRESIDENT, THE TRADE UNIONISTS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY REFER TO INCREASINGLY FREQUENT STATEMENTS BY MINISTER OF LABOR FANNIE BOTHA THAT SOME FORM OF RECOGNITION OF BLACK TRADE UNIONS IS LIKELY TO RESULT FROM THE WIEHAHN COMMISSION OF LABOR INQUIRY RECOMMENDATIONS. JOHNSON

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